

AREA 43

Approved
Feb 2004

A South west Galphay.



Vale Fringe Valley Farmland

Kirkby Malzeard to Azerley

Description

This is a small to moderate scale rolling landscape which extends from the eastern edges of Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe in the west to Azerley in the east and from Hackfall and Mickley in the north to Winksley in the south. This is quite a large character area covering 16.7km². Where the landform dips, close to villages and woodland, views are restricted resulting in an enclosed feel to the landscape. On the higher ground views become more extensive.

This is a diverse landscape within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area has several small villages and scattered farmsteads. Woodland cover is good and there are individual trees on field boundaries. An area of parkland is an important feature in the middle of this Character Area between South Park at Kirkby Malzeard and Azerley Park where individual trees are scattered within fields. Field pattern suggests various stages of early enclosure dating back to medieval times and the amalgamation of enclosure fields. There is an organised appearance to the field pattern but it lacks the regularity of parliamentary enclosure. Overall this area is pleasant and attractive.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

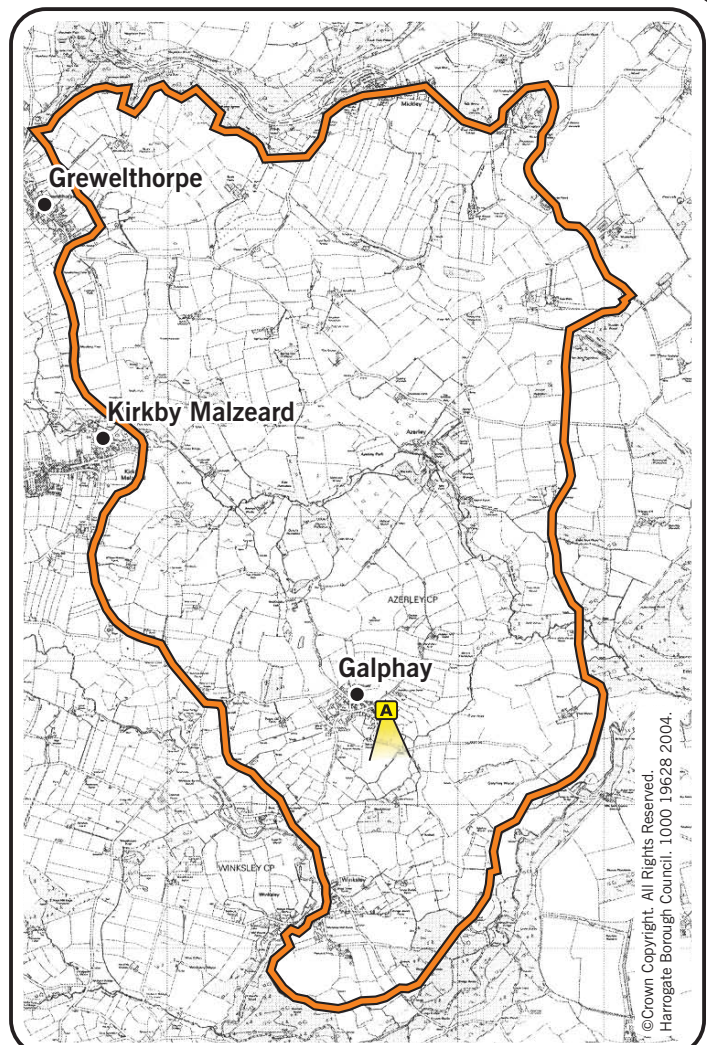
- Solid geology of Millstone grit and coal measures with drift geology of till.
- Slowly permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils and areas of better drained, coarse loamy brown soils over sandstone east of Kirkby Malzeard.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Gently undulating landform between 150m and 90m AOD gradually falling eastwards.
- Kex Beck follows a course eastwards from South Park east of Kirkby Malzeard to the lake at Azerley Park.
- Several springs and small streams punctuate the landscape.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Mixed land use of livestock and arable farming in medium sized fields bounded by hedges and reinforced by fences for livestock control.



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HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

Location in Harrogate District

- Area boundary*
- 📍 Camera location & direction
- 🧭 Not to Scale



* NB Due to the nature of landform, surface treatment and soil/geology composition Character area boundaries cannot be delineated precisely and should be considered "transitional".

- There are several woodland blocks particularly associated with Azerley Park and the east side of Kirkby Malzeard. One of these blocks is registered as Ancient Semi-Natural woodland.
- The numerous small streams and becks through the area are well-wooded.
- Coal Bank Wood and North Close Wood are Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlements are Azerley and Galphay.
- ▶ Traditional building materials are local gritstone and stone slate or blue slate roofs.
- ▶ The landscape is criss-crossed by roads, tracks, bridleways and footpaths.
- ▶ Designed parkland at Azerley and South Park, Kirkby Malzeard.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ This well-wooded area with scattered farmsteads and early enclosure field pattern is sensitive to changes in built form, field pattern and tree cover. However, due to existing tree cover and land-form there may be opportunities for small-scale development associated with rural business, provided that key landscape features are protected.
- ▶ Pressure for extensions to domestic curtilage in particular related to barn conversions and new development may impact upon the rural setting of settlement in the open countryside.
- ▶ Changing agricultural practices and pressure for larger agricultural buildings.
- ▶ Vernacular buildings are prone to neglect; traditional stone farmhouses are sensitive to extensions and conversions, which may alter character.
- ▶ Hedgerow and parkland trees of similar age and neglect of woodland may have a long-term impact on the tree cover in the area.
- ▶ The strong network of public footpath and bridleways is susceptible to neglect but is important historically as many follow traditional routes.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the wooded character and areas of parkland which contribute to this diverse landscape

- ▶ Encourage planting of trees to replace characteristic hedgerow and parkland trees over time.
- ▶ Planting of native species can help to integrate new development particularly along the edge of settlements.
- ▶ Locate new agricultural buildings where needed to respect settlement pattern. Encourage use of appropriate colours and materials to respect vernacular.

Aim: To preserve the setting of settlements in this and adjacent character areas and settlement pattern.

- ▶ Extensions to domestic curtilage may be acceptable where they do not impact on settlement pattern. Space between residential properties and impact on field pattern should be considered. Extensions to domestic curtilage will only be allowed where they fit in with field pattern and settlement pattern.
- ▶ Barn conversions should only be allowed where change of use to residential is appropriate to the character and pattern of the area and where appropriate domestic curtilage can be accommodated.

Aim: To promote the understanding of the history of the landscape and protection of historic elements.

- ▶ Promote the maintenance of traditional rights of way across the landscape.
- ▶ Research hedgerows and hedgerow features. Where possible identify hedges that would be considered important under the criteria in the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations.
- ▶ Protect vernacular buildings and their setting.